

## Poles Apart



Douglas  
Mawson



George  
Wilkins

100 members and their guests met for lunch at RAAFA Cafe. The lounge at Racwa is being refurbished and RAAFA will be our home whilst this is happening. I thanked Kay Barker and Janice Bowra for recommending Peter Alcock as a speaker. Peter and I last met in High School 65 years ago! Peter's subjects were the Polar explorers, Douglas Mawson and George (Hubert) Wilkins. Douglas graduated as a Professor of geology and the glacial rocks in South Australia led to a fascination with Antarctica. On the other hand, George Wilkins was "life educated". He believed proposed Antarctic weather stations could help to predict future weather such as the "Federation drought" that led to his family abandoning farming in South Australia.

## The Old Fliers Group

Royal Aero Club of WA

Stephen Rogers Coordinator.

[henol@bigpond.net.au](mailto:henol@bigpond.net.au)

<http://oldfliersgroup.org.au>

<https://www.youtube.com/@OldFliersGroup>

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Wilkins work as a photographer led to war correspondence work in WW1, as a secret agent, submariner, pilot, naturalist, geographer and climatologist. Wilkins work in the Arctic and Antarctic resulted in King George knighting him for services. Peter gave a good rendition of the aircraft that Wilkins used in his Polar work. He rated the Lockheed Vega, introduced in 1927, as one of the best. The legacy of Wilkins are the naming of Wilkins Sound, Wilkins Ice Shelf and Wilkins Arctic test chamber. Next month we will return to RAAFA Cafe.

Stephen Rogers.

<https://www.youtube.com/@OldFliersGroup/videos>

